

F-7-111

## Providence Methodist Protestant Church

### **Architectural Survey File**

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the “vertical files” at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site ([mht.maryland.gov](http://mht.maryland.gov)) for details about how to make an appointment.

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***Last Updated: 11-21-2003***

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Providence Methodist Protestant Church

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Kempton Church Road

6th E.D. 9

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

Frederick

STATE

COUNTY

Maryland

Map 98 P 11

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☐ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☒ RELIGIOUS☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Providence Methodist Protestant Church Telephone #: 253-3216

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Monrovia, Maryland 21770

CITY, TOWN

STATE, zip code

VICINITY OF

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Frederick County Courthouse

Liber #: 937

Folio #: 262

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Record Street

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Frederick, Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

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**CONDITION**

☐ EXCELLENT  
☒ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

☐ UNALTERED  
☒ ALTERED

**CHECK ONE**

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

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The Providence Methodist Church is an apsidal shaped 1 1/2 story frame, shallow gable roofed structure which faces north on the south side of Kempton Church Road in the town of Kemptown. It is a functioning church which is detached and unrelated to any other buildings, but adjoins a cemetery to the south and southwest sides of the building.

The principal facade is three bays wide. The main entrance which is in the second bay is constructed of double five panel doors with a five light stained glass transom. Extending from the front of the building is a two step entrance porch between the first and third bays. Two rectangular stained glass windows with plain trim occupy the first and third bays. Double colonnade 6/4 windows (which were originally shuttered) are located in the first and third bays on the second level. A triangular 2/2 window is located in the center of the front gable below which a hand lettered wooden plaque states, "Providence M.P. Church 1872".

The asphalt roof is completed by a boxed cornice with return. The main building is built on a low random stone foundation except for the bayed chancel transept to the rear which has been replaced by a brick foundation. There are no chimneys on the structure.

The main chancel is four bays in length with large rectangular stained glass windows (approx. 9 X 2 1/2 feet) with plain molding occupying each bay. Shutters originally covered these openings but are no longer in existence. One rectangular stained glass window is located on the southwest side of the transept.

A one story square addition covered with aluminum siding extends from the first bay on the east side of the main building.

The existing structure has not changed radically from the original structure. The addition to the east side of the main building was built in 1954. The windows in the first and third bay on the first level replaced the original two entrance doors with decorative cornices and three light transoms, (see enclosed photograph c. 1900). Stained glass windows probably replaced clear panes in 1930 when the original doors were replaced under the direction of Rev. E. E. Coleman.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES                      1872                      BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Providence M.P. Church was first organized in 1836 at which time a small tract of land was purchased, part of the original "Snakeroot Thicket" tract from Solomon and Barberry Kemp, and a church was erected. This church became part of the Frederick Circuit, which included Fairview, Mt. Carmel, Providence, Montgomery Chapel, Pleasant Grove, Mountain View, and New Market and remained in the circuit until 1893.<sup>1</sup>

In 1872 it was decided that a new church should be constructed. An additional piece of land from the same tract was purchased for fifty dollars from Greenberry and Hepsey Baker and the existing structure was built.<sup>2</sup>

In 1893 the Frederick Circuit dissolved and Providence, Montgomery Chapel, Mountain View, Pleasant Grove and Mt. Lebanon became the Kemptown Circuit. The most outspoken minister in the history of the church may well have been the Reverend Howard O. Keen, who in 1909 organized the Independent Order of Good Templars in Kemptown, a prohibition group who held meetings at the Jr. O.U.A.M. Hall in town.<sup>3</sup>

The ministers most influential in the physical improvements to the church were Rev. John A. Wright under whose guidance the recessed pulpit was installed in 1902, Rev. E. E. Coleman who directed renovation of the flooring, front entrance, furniture and interior and exterior painting in 1930, and Rev. Leon Dage, in 1954, who encouraged the construction of the new addition to the southeast of the chancel.

1. History of the Providence Methodist Church
2. Ibid.
3. Ibid.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

History of Frederick County, Maryland, T.J.C. Williams, Regional  
Pub. Co. 1967 P489

History of Providence Kemptown Church, 1976

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 1/2 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Cherilyn Widell

ORGANIZATION

Frederick County Historic Sites Survey

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

Winchester Hall, East Church Street

TELEPHONE

663-8300 Ext. 266

CITY OR TOWN

Frederick

STATE

Maryland 21701

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

July 4, 1975

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## HISTORY OF THE PROVIDENCE METHODIST CHURCH

In the year 1836, seven years after the founding of the Methodist Protestant Church of the United States, a group of people in our little village of Kemptown held a meeting and decided to purchase a small tract of land, which was a part of a tract known as "Snakeroot Thicket". On this tract a church was erected which became known as Providence Methodist Protestant Church.

This land was purchased in August 1836 from Solomon Kemp and his wife Barberry Kemp. The Trustees were selected as follows: James Day, John Norwood, Lemuel Brandenburg, John Lowe, and Joseph Kemp. Three of the afore mentioned Trustees were members of Providence Methodist Protestant Church and two were non-members. The two non-member Trustees were the representatives of the subscribers of the Church that were also non-members of the Church.

It was also set forth in the Deed that this new Church was to be kept as a Church for the use of Methodist Protestant Ministers or any other white minister of the Gospel who may obtain permission from the Trustees to use the Church when not occupied by Methodist Protestant Ministers or members of the Methodist Protestant Church.

This Deed was acknowledged on the ninth (9th) day of August 1836 before two Justices of the Peace, Washington Burgess and John Phelps. This acknowledgement which was very unique in the manner in which it was written, reads as follows:

Transferred August 9, 1836 - State of Maryland, Frederick County to wit.

Be it remembered and it is hereby certified that on the 9th day of August 1836 before the subscribers and two Justices of the Peace of the State of Maryland in and for Frederick County, aforesaid personally appears: Solomon Kemp and Barberry Kemp, his wife, they being known to us to be the persons who are named and described as and proposing to be the parties to the foregoing deed indenture and do severally acknowledge the said deed indenture or instrument of writing to be their respective act and deed, the said Barberry Kemp having signed and sealed said indenture before us out of the presence and hearing of her said husband whether she doth execute and acknowledge the same freely and voluntarily and without being induced to do so by fear of his displeasure or threat of or ill usage by her said husband declareth and saith that she doth. In testimony where of we here unto subscribe our name in the day and year aforesaid 1836.

Washington Burgess  
George Phelps

Reference - 193-194 Land Record # 3 - Liber H.S.

At the time the congregations organized we became a part of what was known as Frederick Circuit which comprised eight churches: ... Fairview, Mt. Carmel, Providence, Montgomery Chapel, Pleasant Grove, Mountain View, and New Market. We remained with the Frederick Circuit until the year 1893.

As the congregation grew it became necessary to have a larger Church, so in the year 1872 more land was purchased from Greenberry Baker and his wife Hepsey Baker. This second tract also being part of the tract known as Snakeroot Thicket--purchase price \$50. The Trustees selected were Reuben M. Moxley, William Boyer, John T. Lewis, Wesley Boyer and Richard Browning. The Trustees were selected in the same manner as used in the first deed. This deed was made on the 18th day of March 1872. In the same year our present Church was erected. The first pastor to deliver a sermon in the new church was Rev. W. T. Dumm. A few of the ministers who served our church from 1872 until the time the Frederick Circuit was divided and we became known as Kemptown Circuit were ... Rev. Ferguson, Farring, Cochel, and Jesse Shreve.

In the year 1893 Frederick Circuit was divided and took the name of Kemptown Circuit which was comprised of ... Providence, Montgomery Chapel, Mountain View, Pleasant Grove, and Mt. Lebanon. The pastor on the Circuit at the time of this division was Rev. W. J. Floyd. Following Rev. Floyd, being sent here in the same year, was Rev. J.W. Charlton whose salary at that time was \$500.00 a year. In the year 1895 Rev. A. D. Dick became our pastor followed in 1897 by Rev. J. L. Elderdice, 1898 Rev. C.M. Cullum, and in 1902 Rev. John A. Wright, under whose pastorate improvements were made on the Church including the present recessed pulpit. In 1909 Rev. Howard O. Keen was sent to our Circuit. Rev. Keen was an avid advocate of Prohibition and helped to organize the I.O.G.T., the Independent Order of Good Templars in Kemptown. They had a large membership and met in the Jr. Order Hall which is now the house of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Galley. He took a picture of his little daughter, Phyllis, and had a button made that read, "Vote dry for my sake", and distributed them to all who believed as he did. His son played baseball with the St. Louis Cardinals. He was the last minister to live in the original parsonage which was the house above Mrs. Evelyn Riggs and below the store. At this time that parsonage was sold and the house at the east corner of Kemptown Church Road was purchased and furnished for Rev. Stocksdales who was with us for one year, during which time his wife died. He was followed by Rev. A. H. Green from 1917 to 1922. Rev. C. N. Alexander came to our Circuit in 1922 and died in that same year. His place was filled for the remainder of the year by Rev. S.R. Martin. In the year 1923 Rev. Frederick Saffrin, in 1924 Rev. Frank M. Volk. In the year 1930 Rev. E. E. Coleman, under whose excellent leadership our Church was completely renovated to the extent of new furniture, new floor, new paint inside and outside, and the changing of the entrance, the two single doors to the present double door entrance. In 1933 Rev. Charles F. Cummins, who was former Treasurer of the Conference, was sent to our Circuit. He was followed by Rev. Gilbert Turner in 1934. Rev. Stephen Galley came in 1937 and stayed with us until he left to serve as a Chaplain in the army during World War II.

During the time Rev. Galley was on the Circuit the 1939 Uniting Conference merged the Three Methodist Churches into the Methodist Church. Thus our Church became known as Providence Methodist Church. Dr. Lawrence Little came in 1943 followed by Rev. Chester B. Smith in 1945.

It was during the pastorate of Dr. Lawrence Little, that the parsonage, the house now occupied by the Isaac family and Mrs. Putman, was declared unfit for use as a parsonage any more, not having central heat and a modern bathroom. So it was decided to build a new parsonage at Montgomery Chapel, that being the largest church on the circuit. This was accomplished during the pastorate of Rev. Chester B. Smith, who endured many hardships during the six years he was here, one of which was to set up housekeeping in the hall at Montgomery Chapel. But he finally was permitted to move into the newly built house on a lot not far from Montgomery Church.

Rev. Smith served until 1951 and was followed by Rev. Thomas W. Sunderland who served until 1954 when Rev. Leon Dage came to the Circuit. It was during his ministry that Kemptown Church had growing pains and decided to build an addition to the church, including Sunday School rooms in the basement, rest rooms, a dining hall and kitchen above ground. This decision was greatly influenced by the fact that the Kemptown Picnic Supper usually held under a tent on the grounds was totally flooded out that year. Also, our Sunday School was growing in size and trying to have seven different Sunday School Classes in the sanctuary was getting to be a little less than desirable. So we expanded and grew in membership. Rev. Dage was followed by Rev. Melvin Tingle who served until 1963 at which time the Montgomery Church decided that they wanted to be a station with their own pastor, and Kemptown and Pleasant Grove would have to form their own circuit and try to exist. The Parsonage at Montgomery was appraised, and they paid us our share for a nest egg to build a new parsonage for ourselves.

The land was purchased from Mrs. Putman, a part of the former parsonage property that had been sold to the Putman's in 1945 or thereabouts. The building of the parsonage began and our new minister, Rev. Kenneth McDonald, Jr. began his pastorate, commuting from Shady Grove Trailer Court where he lived in a trailer while going to school. When his school ended and he was ordained, he moved his trailer on the parsonage grounds and lived in it until he was able to move into the parsonage. He stayed with us until 1966 and was succeeded by Rev. K. Leon Beale, who served us for eight years, during which time we paid off the mortgage on the parsonage and built another addition to our Sunday School rooms and kitchen.

In 1968 during the General Conference in Houston, Texas, the Methodist Church merged with the Evangelical United Brethren Church and we became the United Methodist Church. We still retained our original name of Providence, so now we are the Providence United Methodist Church. In 1973 Rev. Beale left us and our present minister, Rev. Charles Frum came to us.

We have had several anniversary celebrations. In 1947 we had a 75th birthday of the present church, the 11th of the church in Kemptown, and in 1972 we celebrated our 100th anniversary.

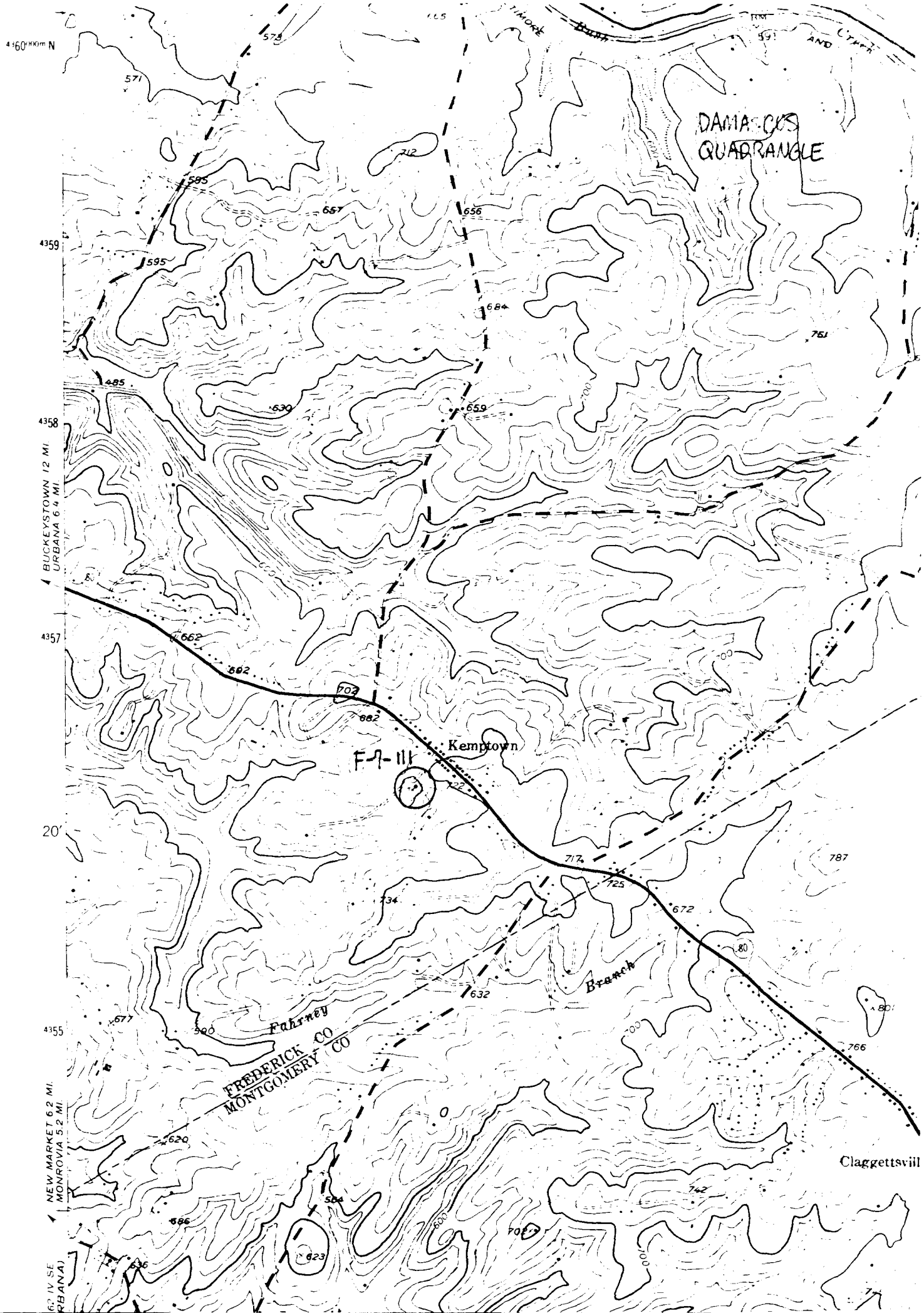
Now let's take a look at some of the names of the many subscribers to the first church in 1836, in the hope that some of you may recognize the name of one of your ancestors. These persons contributed time and/or



money that the town of Kemptown might have a building in which to worship the Lord.

Soloman Kemp, Thomas Norwood, James Day, Bernard Kemp, Joshua Purdum, Lemuel Brandenburg, Eli Brashear, Edward Warfield, William Burditt, John Bear, John Fahner, Reuben Baker, Daniel Moxley, Stephen Moxley, Silvester Baker, Samuel Dillon, William B. McElfresh, Elizabeth Klay, George Klay, John Engel, Jacob Engel, John Rian, Samuel Rian, Peter Boyer, Thomas Baker, George Kindley, Nathan Clagett, Thomas Burgess, Perrygreen White, Jeremiah Watkins, William T. Glaze, Upton Bell, Ezekiel Moxley, Sr. Ezekiel Moxley, Jr., Mary Fahner, Jefferson Day, Joseph Kemp, Nicolas Watkins, Gassoway Watkins, Evan Thompson, Elias Bottler, George Fahner, Alfred Baker, Elizah Robinson, Joshua Norwood, Benjamin Sier, Adam Shaffer, Maryann Felman, Thomas Mulnix, Henry Smith, Charley Moxley, William Davis, John T. Lewis, Isaac Burk, Mesheck Baker, Mathias Ziegler, Jeremiah Fowler, Roland Burk, George Mount, Samuel Williams, William Moxley, John Boyer, Sarah Moxley, Elisha Beal, William Mount, John Wood, Benjamin Todd, John Low, Reuben Moxley, Jeremiah Browning, Richard Browning, James Boyer, Isaac Norwood, Thomas Baker, Jr., Silas Browning, Susanna Watkins, Nehemiah Moxley, Nathan Purdum, Archibald Browning, Grafton Duvall, Samuel Baker, Joseph West, William Low, and Joel Wood.







NEW

2/23/77

F-7-III

PROVIDENCE METHODIST PROTESTANT CHURCH

Cherilyn Widell



NW Vren

2/23/77

F-7-III

PROVIDENCE METHODIST PROVIDENCE CHURCH

Christyn Widell





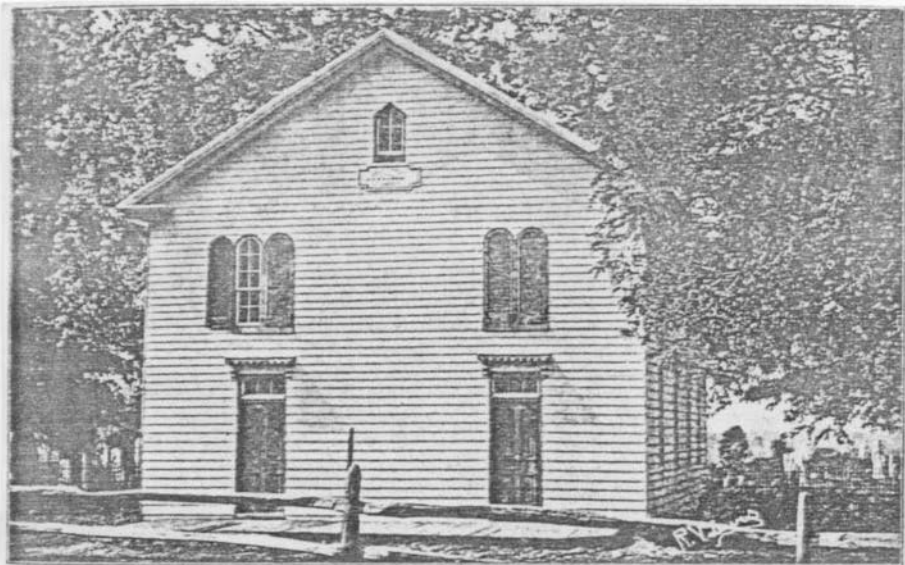
SW View

2/23/77

F-7-111

Providence Methodist Episcopal Church

Cherilyn Widell, 1977



Providence Methodist Protestant Church, Kemptown.

*Before 1930*

F-7-111

Providence Methodist Episcopal Church

